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Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2009

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Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 10-27 and 29-35 are pending in the application, with claims 10, 18, and 21 being the independent claims. The title (including the title in the specification), and claims 10-27 and 29-35 are amended herein. Claims 1-9 and 28 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to any cancelled or amended claims, in the future. Support for the amendments is found in the instant specification at least at, for example, paragraphs [0010]-[0014], [0024]-[0026], [0032], [0049], [0050], [0089], [0091], [0092], [0121]-[0123], [0128]–[0130], [0135], [0137], and [0156] and FIGs. 1D, 5F, 5G, and 6A. These amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Statement of Substance of Telephonic Interview

Further to the Interview Summary mailed November 2, 2009, Applicants submit the following Statement of Substance of Interview conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' representatives, Glenn J. Perry and Randall Baldwin. The Examiner is thanked for his time during a telephonic interview conducted on October 28, 2009,

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during which discussions with Applicants' representatives, the Examiner indicated that the objection to the specification indicated on page 2 of the Office Action could be traversed by amendments to claims 18, 20, 22-24 and 31-33. During the interview possible amendments to claims 10 and 12 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 were discussed. Possible amendments to independent claim 10 to clarify the recited "secured item" were discussed. No agreement on specific claim language was reached.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis of the claimed subject matter. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the tangible computer-readable media recited in claims 18, 20, 22-24 and 31-33 are not supported by the specification. (Office Action, page 2). As discussed during the aforementioned interview, merely in order to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the propriety of the objection, Applicants submit herewith amendments to the claims to address the Examiner's concerns. Support for the amendments is found in the instant specification at least at, for example, paragraphs [0049], [0050], and [0156] and FIG. 1D.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-27 and 29-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,757,920 to Misra *et al.* ("Misra") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,404 to Zhao *et al.* ("Zhao"). Applicants respectfully traverse for the reasons stated below.

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As discussed during the telephonic interview, while Applicants believe there are patentable differences between previously pending independent claims 10, 18, and 21 and the applied references, merely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 10, 18, and 21. Claims 10 and 18 as amended herein recite, using respective language, "authenticating a user having credential information to a first server having a secured document stored therein; and upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server at a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows access to the secured document at the second server." Claim 21 as amended herein recites an access control device configured to "authenticate a user having credential information to a first server having the secured document stored therein; and upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticate the credential information to the second server, and disconnect the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows access to the secured document at the second server." Support for the amendments is found in the instant specification at least at, for example, paragraphs [0010]-[0014], [0024]-[0026], [0032], [0089], [0091], [0092], [0121]-[0123], [0128]-[0130], [0135] and [0137] and FIGs. 5F, 5G, and 6A.

Misra is limited to a method "for checking authorization and authentication information" (Misra, col. 1, lines 54-55). Although Misra may describe that "[l]ogon certificates provide a vehicle to demonstrate that the user/machine has sufficient credentials to connect to the non-home domain without contacting the home domain" (Misra, col. 5, lines 13-17), Misra is silent regarding the capability of upon receiving a

request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows the access to the secured document at the second server, as recited, using similar respective language, in amended claims 10, 18, and 21.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Misra and Zhao can be properly combined in the manner suggested, to which Applicants do not acquiesce, Zhao does not cure the deficiencies of Misra. The method of Zhao is directed to managing user logins to a restricted computer service over a stateless network (Zhao, Abstract). While Zhao's method may "keep track of concurrent users assigned to a common account or ID number" (Zhao, col. 2, lines 10-12), Zhao does not teach or suggest, upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows the access to the secured document at the second server, as recited, using similar respective language, in claims 10, 18, and 21. Zhao may describe a "state lookup table (SLT)" that is "used, among other things, to determine if a particular concurrent user will be forced off to make way for a new login" (Zhao col. 4, lines 2-9). However, Zhao's SLT is not used for "authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows the access to the secured document at the second server" or to "authenticate the credential information to the second server, and disconnect the user–from the first server before establishing a connection that allows access to the secured document at the second server", as recited in

claims 10, 18, and 21, respectively. Zhao's "user access control system" is limited to managing "login and session activities" by determining if a user ID maps to single user or a concurrent user and then determining if a "maximum number of simultaneous logins" have been exceeded before a new login is allowed (Zhao, col. 6, line 40-col. 7, line 8 and FIG. 7). Therefore, in the Zhao's, a user is being authenticated based only a furnished user ID and current number of simultaneous logins. In contrast to authenticating based only on a user ID and number of logins as described in Zhao, claims 10, 18, and 21, as amended, recite, among other features "authenticating a user having credential information to a first server having a secured document stored therein" and "upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows the access to the secured document at the second server," or similar respective language.

The Examiner asserts, to which Applicants do not acquiesce to, that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Zhao's teaching to allow some control over the number sessions and connections [for] single accounts to hopefully protect the network from being exposed to improper entry." (Office Action pages 3-4). However, Zhao is not stated by the Examiner to teach, nor does it teach or suggest, "upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows the access to the secured document at the second server" as recited, using similar respective language, in claims 10, 18, and 21. Therefore,

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Zhao cannot cure the deficiencies of Misra, and cannot be used to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regards to independent claims 10, 18, and 21.

Therefore, because Zhao fails to teach or suggest at least the above noted features of claims 10, 18, and 21, Zhao cannot be used to cure the deficiencies of Misra. Thus, the applied references cannot be used to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claims 10, 18, and 21.

Thus, the allegedly obvious combination of Misra and Zhao fails to teach or suggest at least "authenticating a user having credential information to a first server having a secured document stored therein" and "upon receiving a request for access to the secured document at a second server from a second location, authenticating the credential information to the second server, and disconnecting the user from the first server before establishing a connection that allows access to the secured document at the second server", as recited, using similar respective language, in claims 10, 18, and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection, and find claims 10, 18, and 21 allowable over the applied references. Also, at least based on their respective dependencies to claims 10, 18, and 21, claims 11-17, 19-20, 22-27, and 29-35 should be found allowable over the applied references, as well as for their additional distinguishing features. See *In Re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
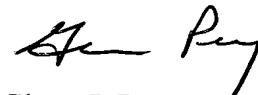
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